

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /040 W
----- 060353

R 141426Z OCT 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1456

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 360

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: RECIPROCAL SUPPORT - ARMY AND PEACE PEOPLE

REF: (A) BELFAST 358 (B) BELFAST 353

1. PEASE LEADERS WILLIAMS, CORRIGAN AND MC KEOWN ISSUED STATEMENT OCTOBER 13 CLARIFYING PEACE MOVEMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD SECURITY FORCES (REFTEL A) AND DENYING THEY EQUATED "....THE VICIOUS AND DETERMINED TERRORISM OF THE REPUBLICAN AND LOYALIST PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS WITH THOSE OCCASIONAL INSTANCES WHERE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES MAY HAVE STEPPED BEYOND THE RULE OF LAW." STATEMENT OFFERED TO PARAMILITARIES A "....NEW KIND OF PATRIOTISM WHICH THE PEACE MOVEMENT OFFERS.....TO CREATE ONE SELF-RESPECTING COMMUNITY". AND "....UNTIL THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES EVOLVE THEIR OWN INSTITUTIONS AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT, THE RUC (ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY) AND THE OTHER SECURITY FORCES FORCES ARE THE ONLY LEGITIMATE UPHOLDERS OF THE RULE OF LAW". EXCEPT FOR PREVIOUS ALLUSIONS TO AN ULSTER IDENTITY AND THE NECESSITY TO BUILD A PEACEFUL SOCIETY OF THE WORKING-CLASS ACROSS SECTARIAN DIVIDES, THIS STATEMENT IS THE FIRST TENTATIVE SUGGESTION THAT THE PEACE MOVEMENT COULD TAKE A POLITICAL DIRECTION. THERE IS SOME RISK EVEN IN THIS SINCE THE REPUBLICAN CLUBS/SINN FEIN/

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OFFICIAL IRA ESPOUSE A NON-SECTARIAN, WORKING-CLASS NATION OUT

OF 32 COUNTIES.

2. ARMY IN TWO SEPARATE ACTIONS GAVE TACIT SUPPORT TO PEACE PEOPLE. EIGHT SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH BURNING A GAELIC ATHLETIC CLUB IN WEST BELFAST OCTOBER 12 AND FIVE MEMBERS OF THE BLACK WATCH WILL BE CHARGED WITH PLANTING LIVE AMMUNITION AS EVIDENCE AGAINST SUSPECTS DURING A TOUR OF DUTY IN WEST BELFAST A YEAR AGO. CONGEN RECALLS IT BLACK WATCH THAT ACCUSED BY CATHOLICS OF "MURDER" OF 17 YEAR OLD LEO NORNEY ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1975 IN TURF LODGE AREA. ARMY HAD ORIGINALLY DENIED CLAIMS BY LOCAL RESIDENTS THAT FOOT PATROL INCLUDING DRUNKS, WAS IN VICINITY OF ATHLETIC CLUB WHEN IT BURNED. ADMISSION OF ERRORS HELPS PROCESS IN WHICH "US AND THEM" BECOMES PEACE LOVERS AGAINST PARAMILITARIES RATHER THAN CATHOLICS AGAINST ARMY AND PROTESTANTS AGAINST CATHOLICS.

3. BELFAST FIREMEN WHO SUSPENDED BOYCOTT OF TERRORIST FIRES WEEK AGO (REFTEL B) RESUMED INDUSTRIAL ACTION OCTOBER 14. NATIONAL CASH REGISTER BUILDING (NOT AMERICAN) WAS GUTTED BY FIRE FOLLOWING BOMBING AS FIREMEN REFUSED TO FIGHT FLAMES.

4. BODY OF UNIDENTIFIED MALE VICTIM OF VIOLENCE FOUND OFF SHANKILL ROAD EARLY OCTOBER 13 AND PROTESTANT MAN KILLED AND SON WOUNDED LATE SAME DAY IN PORTADOWN AREA IN WHAT SEEMS TO BE SECTARIAN REPRISAL FOR SHOOTING CATHOLIC FARMER OCTOBER 11. SPICER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PEACE, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELFAS00360
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760386-1055
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761055/aaaabuxm.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BELFAST 358, 76 BELFAST 353
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by DuboseBM>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2005 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECIPROCAL SUPPORT - ARMY AND PEACE PEOPLE
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006